

sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- ①
- (a) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;
  - (b) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and
  - (c) a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.
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Claim 41. (Twice Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide that specifically hybridizes with a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- ②
- (a) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; and
  - (b) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

①

under conditions of a buffer comprising 45%(v/v) formamide, 5x SSPE, at 42°C, and washing after hybridization with a buffer comprising 2xSSPE at 42°C, and that encodes a protein having the biological activity of inhibiting neurite outgrowth from dorsal root ganglion cells.

Claim 42. (Twice Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide that specifically hybridizes with a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; and
- (b) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

under conditions of a buffer comprising 45%(v/v) formamide, 5x SSPE, at 42°C, and washing after hybridization with a buffer comprising 2xSSPE, at 42°C, and that encodes a protein having the biological activity of collapsing growth cones of retinal ganglion cells.

Claim 43. (Twice Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence that has 80% or more sequence identity with a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (b) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and
- (c) a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3; that encodes a protein having the biological activity of inhibiting neurite outgrowth from dorsal root ganglion cells.

Claim 45. (Twice Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence that has 80% or more sequence identity with a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (b) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and
- (c) a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence

D3 of SEQ ID NO:3; that encodes a protein having the biological activity of collapsing growth cones of retinal ganglion cells.

D1 Sub G<sup>2</sup> Claim 48. (Twice Amended) An expression plasmid comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 34, 41, 42, 43, or 45.

sub E<sup>3</sup> Claim 51. (Twice Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a polynucleotide consisting of at least 27 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:2, 4, or 10 with the proviso that said nucleic acid molecule does not consist of a polynucleotide consisting of at least 27 contiguous nucleotides disclosed in GenBank Accession No:T09073 or GenBank Accession No:R54387.